

About Voluntary Home Visiting

Welcoming a baby into the family can be wonderful and stressful, even for those with support. But parenting can be even more difficult for some families who face extra challenges such as living below the poverty threshold or lacking stability in housing.

Home visiting can help.

Backed by decades of research, evidence-based home visiting is a powerful and proven strategy to support pregnant women and families with young children.

During these voluntary sessions, home visitors such as nurses, social workers, early childhood specialists, mental health clinicians and care coordinators, and paraprofessionals mentor pregnant women, parents, and other caregivers to support the parent-child relationship. Home visitors are supportive partners who build a trusting relationship with families and help guide them through the early stages of raising a child.

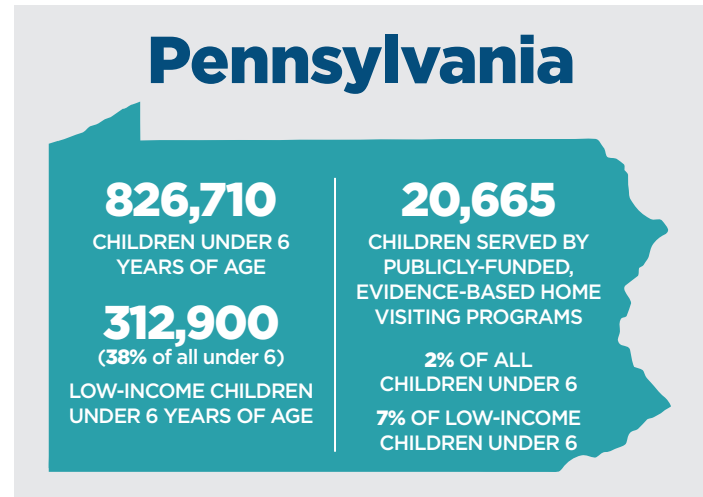
About Us

Childhood Begins at Home is a statewide campaign launched in 2017 to help policymakers and the public understand the value of evidence-based home visiting and support public investments in the programs.

The campaign includes child advocacy organizations alongside the eight evidence-based home visiting models operating in Pennsylvania that receive public (state and/or federal) funds to support their programs. These models include **Child First, Early Head Start, Family Check-Up®, Family Connects, Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and SafeCare Augmented®**.

Each model has strengths in at least one or more of these eight outcomes to meet families' unique experiences: child development and school readiness; child health; family economic self-sufficiency; linkages and referrals; maternal health; positive parenting practices; reductions in child maltreatment; and reductions in juvenile delinquency, family violence and crime.

To date, the campaign has secured funding increases more than tripling the state investments. This has helped serve many more Pennsylvania families, yet it represents only a fraction of those most in need of services.



Home Visiting Can Help



CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND SCHOOL READINESS



CHILD
HEALTH



FAMILY ECONOMIC
SELF-SUFFICIENCY



LINKAGES
AND REFERRALS



MATERNAL
HEALTH



POSITIVE PARENTING
PRACTICES



REDUCTIONS IN
CHILD MALTREATMENT



REDUCTIONS IN JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY, FAMILY
VIOLENCE AND CRIME

Mercer County

Early Head Start, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers
(publicly funded, evidence-based home visiting models operating in the county)

7,283

**CHILDREN UNDER
6 YEARS OF AGE**

3,100

**(48% of all under 6)
LOW-INCOME
CHILDREN UNDER
6 YEARS OF AGE**

527

**CHILDREN SERVED BY
PUBLICLY-FUNDED,
EVIDENCE-BASED HOME
VISITING PROGRAMS***

**7% OF ALL CHILDREN
UNDER 6**

**17% OF LOW-INCOME
CHILDREN UNDER 6**

In 2023, a family of four falls in the “low-income” category if its annual income is below \$60,000 (200% Federal Poverty Level).
Source: Enrollment is based on 2022-23 Quarter 2 children served snapshot and data provided by home-based Early Head Start grantees.
Poverty is based on 2017-21 American Community Survey. State population is based on 2021 Vintage population estimates.
*Represents the total number of children served, at any time, throughout a fiscal year, contracted between OCDEL and the local implementing agency.

STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG KIDS

As part of the 2023-24 state budget, the campaign is urging policymakers to sustain the current level of funding, following last year’s historic increase for evidence-based home visiting. While there is a large unmet need for services, the campaign acknowledges increasing access must be done in an effective manner. Together, the Community-Based Family Center line and the Nurse-Family Partnership line represent \$48.6 million to support the well-being of pregnant women and families with young children.



**Childhood
Begins at
Home**



 [ChildhoodBeginsAtHome](#)

 [ChildBegin_Home](#)

 [childbegin_home](#)

www.childhoodbeginsathome.org